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SUBJECT: AZERBAIJAN: S/GWI FY2010 PROJECT PROPOSALS

REF: (1) 09 STATE 132094 (2) 10 BAKU 24

11. SUMMARY: Per reftel, this cable summarizes the three prioritized Post proposals addressing (1) prevention of gender-based violence through public awareness in IDP populated areas in the outskirts of Baku; (2) legal empowerment of women through education and individualized legal support in isolated communities of Nakchivan and Goranboy; and (3) political empowerment of young women in Gazakh, Tovuz and Ganja through leadership skills' coaching to promote gender equity in local political processes.

12. BACKGROUND: Violence against women, besides being a violation of fundamental human rights, is also an obstacle to development. Not surprisingly, in Azerbaijan the fault lines of development, which can be found around and beyond the capital city of Baku, coincide with an almost total absence of prevention and response activities to the issue of violence against women. Lack of financial opportunities, community reproach and blame, fear of losing children or not have the means to care for them, lack of available support systems all deter a woman from leaving a violent relationship. Lifestyles in the country's interior are based on culturally traditional values that shroud the issue of violence against women with a veil of silence or shame, making awareness of women's rights a compelling priority. This situation is ever more critical for women displaced from their original communities who lack any supportive network, guidance or orientation. Public awareness of the gender based violence issue and legal education on women's rights and counseling go hand in hand in alleviating these women's dilemma. In addition, political empowerment of young women through leadership skills' coaching is a key contribution towards a more equal and active political representation of women in local political processes and to introduce them as stakeholders in the pursuit of women's social advancement.

13. Proposal No.1: "Public Awareness and Prevention Initiatives on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)"

-Implementing organization: local NGO WARD (Women Association for Rational Development) dedicated to education for women's empowerment and equal participation and with extensive international donor experience.
-Total Funding Requested: \$50,000 (total project costs are estimated in \$56,000, from which WARD's contribution is \$6,000)
-Project duration: 9 months (April 1st-December 31, 2010)
-Project goal: improving protection of women through overall -public awareness and community based campaigns on sexual and gender-based violence and strengthening women's capacity to respond through vocational training.
-Project sites: nation-wide prevention campaign and self-reliance initiatives with a major focus in 14 target areas heavily populated by IDPs in the outskirts of Baku (Sumgayit, Bilesuvar) and in the regions (Agjabedi,

Agdam, Fizuli, Gabala, Yevlakh, Barda, Ganja, Mingechvir, Imishli, Saatli, Beylagan).

-Project description/activities and budget:

(1) Publishing and hanging posters, bills, stickers, street banners and billboards in highly visible site areas (\$20,000)--visibility materials were designed for a previous SGBV campaign which reduces costs;

(2) Conducting 50 community-based workshops in IDP dormitories in the outskirts of Baku (\$2,000) -- Materials for distribution were produced for a previous SGBV campaign in Baku, thus only small reproduction fees are necessary. In addition, an 18 minute documentary "Life Betrayed" on SGBV and human trafficking (with awareness-raising elements) will be showed at the workshops. This film was produced by WARD in 2008 and has proved an effective visual aid in raising awareness;

(3) Preparing and broadcasting an awareness-raising TV reel on SGBV. It will be 3-5 minutes long, and will be produced and launched during the project period (\$4,000);

(4)Organizing public events on occasion of central Azerbaijani calendar dates such as Women's Day, Refugees' Day, Human Rights' Day, etc. (\$4,000) -- a variety of formats (joint conferences, round tables) of public events will ensure coverage of different audiences and be a space for distributing printed materials on awareness;

(5) Organizing 10 vocational training courses on hairdresser skills for women in IDP and refugee communities in the outskirts of Baku (Sumgayit), where a minimum 100 women will be beneficiaries and will also receive a kit that contain the essential tools of the trade (special combs, hair scissors, hair dryer, clips, etc.) (\$20,000).

WARD will contribute an estimated \$6,000 to cover indirect costs such as transportation (\$1,350), communications (\$1,350), office space (\$1,440), office supplies (\$1,170) and bank expenses (\$690).

14. Proposal No.2:"Women for women Legal Support Project in Nakchivan and Goranboy"

-Implementing organization: Women's Bar Association
-Total Funding Requested: \$24,000
-Project duration: 4 months
-Project goal: to educate women on their privileges and freedoms, on how to defend their rights and to provide them with access to justice via legal advice on specific cases.
-Project site: Nakchivan and Goranboy
-Project description/activities:

(1) A total of six seminars will be delivered (three at each site) on the topics of gender equality (your rights under the Law); domestic violence and early marriages; and trafficking in persons. At least 150 participants are expected (\$7,800);

(2) After each seminar, the Women's Bar Association (WBA) will provide pro bono advice to women with specific issues and will refer them to lawyers, shelters and other services available, providing follow up via telephone, email and on subsequent visits to the regions. At least 80 women will receive this service (\$7,800);

(3) During the seminars, three female community leaders in each region, who will serve as liaisons with the WBA will be identified and invited to participate in a training of trainers' at WBA's Baku headquarters (\$4,200);

(4) After completing their training, the trainers will jointly coordinate and conduct a one day comprehensive

gender seminar in their respective local community
(\$4,200)

Nakchivan is perhaps the most geographically remote and politically constricted enclave in Azerbaijan. This activity would grant a very valuable opportunity to support civil society presence in a severely constricted political freedom space.

¶5. Proposal No.3:"Political Leadership Program for Girls in the Western Region of Azerbaijan: Gedebe Summer camp"

-Implementing organization: "Garb Resurs" 'West Resource'
-Total Funding Requested: \$75,900
-Project duration: 12 months
-Project goal: to develop leadership skills in young women-students (17-23) and channel their leadership into politics.
-Project sites: Gazakh, Tovuz and Ganja (Western Azerbaijan)
-Project description/activities:

(1)Ten four-day workshops to be held in Universities, Colleges and NGO and political parties' institutional facilities, (6 in Ganja and 2 each in Tovuz and Gazakh) for 25 participants each (\$16,500);

(2)A round table organized for 25 active girls selected among workshop participants to discuss summer camp rules and schedule (cost included above);

(3)A two-week summer camp including a community service project, field trips and recreational activities with hands-on leadership experiences in group and individual projects and activities (\$14,000);

(4)During the summer camp, a theater show will be played by the girls and will encourage them to apply their recently acquired knowledge and leadership skills (\$4,000);

(5)A website will be created to disseminate information on the project and to share detailed information on the experience to contribute impact measure (\$1,500)

(6) All previous staff preparation and training, workshop announcement campaigns and participant selection activities as well as monitoring and evaluation reports are bundled here as a single activity along with indirect costs: salaries (\$7,800), honorariums (\$16,600), equipment (\$4,000), in country travel (\$6,000) and administrative costs (\$4500) and bank expenses (\$1,000) for a total of (\$39,900).

¶6. All these local organizations have a good tracking record of efficient and effective implementation of previous assistance projects with the Embassy and other international donors. The Executive Office's Assistance Coordinator will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on project implementation and has also based the selection of these proposals on their alignment with post's assistance policy priorities, as coordinated with USG stakeholders represented at post, and the specific recommendations provided by the Women's Issues officer at post contained in refTel BAKU 24. Potential extension of the vocational training program to other geographical areas will draw upon the results of the project. To ensure this, the Embassy's Front Office will take the lead in coordinating potential future programmatic interventions in an inter-agency working group focusing on Women Issues.

¶7. Please contact Assistance Coordinator, Silvia Taylor, at TaylorSL@state.gov or (994-12)498-0335, Ext.4633, for further reference and information on these proposals.

¶8. Post appreciates the Department's consideration of our prioritized proposals and welcomes the opportunity to

contribute advancing women's political, economic and social rights in Azerbaijan.

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